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VERY TIGHTLY HELD

23 December 1958

FROM: GENERAL NORSTAD

TO : CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, WASHINGTON, D. C.

During the course of last week's Ministerial discussions on the Berlin question, Secretary Dulles suggested that it might prove useful if SACEUR were to draw up a series of graduated steps which might be taken purely on the military side, in response to further pressures from the Soviets, for the purpose of demonstrating that we intend at all costs to stand firm. These steps would at the same time gradually bring our allied forces to a higher state of readiness, but would be short of an actual alert. This suggestion was also made in very general terms to some of the Ministers attending the meeting.

My staff has now prepared a first draft study on this subject, including a list of steps which might be taken. However, before circulating any such study on an Allied basis, I feel that considerable further detailed analysis of the problem should be undertaken, particularly with respect to impacts in the psychological field, which may be the area of greatest importance. It would be most helpful if you could send a small group of expert planners, with experience in this field, to SHAPE or EUCOM on a few day's TDY to assist in further refinement and development of our study. Since I would like to have my final suggestions ready for consideration early in the new year, I suggest that if at all possible the group arrive here 3 January, or as soon thereafter as possible.

(HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS: Above message handled by Des Loges at request of GENERAL PALMER, Deputy CHIEF. GENERAL PALMER requests answer be referred through his V.P. to the Chairman, JCS, for delivery to GENERAL NORSTAD)

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